

CIA Seeks to Review Classified Walsh Report On Iran-Contra Affair

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The CIA wants a copy of the classified volume of independent counsel Lawrence E. Walsh's report on his Iran-contra investigation to determine if disciplinary action or regulatory changes are needed at the agency.

First word of the CIA's interest in the Walsh classified volume, which primarily is devoted to CIA operations in Central America in the 1980s, was contained in a Jan. 19 letter from the agency's assistant general counsel, Robert J. Eatinger Jr., to the clerk of the U.S. Court of Appeals here asking for a copy of the report.

In his letter, Eatinger said the agency wanted the classified volume "in order that the CIA inspector general may determine whether the [Walsh] report warrants internal investigation . . . [or] whether any regulatory, administrative or disciplinary action is warranted." The agency has yet to receive a response to its request, a CIA source said yesterday.

Eatinger's letter was included in three volumes of sealed motions and letters that were made public this week by the three-judge panel that administered Walsh's activities.

The released legal motions outline the secret maneuverings that took place as several of the individuals criticized in the Walsh report, including former President Ronald Reagan, former attorney general Edwin Meese III and former White House aide Oliver L. North, attempted to delay release in order to expunge material they considered inaccurate or accusatory.

The motions by North, who is running for the Republican nomination for the U.S. Senate from Virginia, were removed from the material, as permitted by the panel, before the volumes were made public, according to sources.

When a document Walsh had filed

counsel statute, comments by such individuals were to be submitted and published with the report.

Reagan, Meese and former secretary of state George P. Shultz requested to see not just the sections involving them but also the entire report. The judges allowed Reagan to see it but denied access to Meese and Shultz.

Reagan also asked to be able to confer with other former members of his administration to coordinate a response to Walsh's repeated descriptions of actions by the Reagan administration or Reagan Cabinet members. The three-judge panel gave Reagan's lawyer, Theodore C. Olson, authority to discuss a response with lawyers for the other officials.

Meese sought but was denied access to all the grand jury testimony and FBI interview reports that Walsh used to write the report. Instead, the panel allowed Meese to read his own grand jury testimony, sworn depositions and FBI reports on his interviews.

Walsh was criticized in motions filed by lawyers representing Israeli officials and private citizens who were involved in the Iran-contra affair and mentioned in the report.

In September, the panel turned down a request by the Israeli government to review the report but allowed it to see sections based on chronologies supplied by the Israelis. Subsequently, the judges approved requests by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and others to examine portions of the report pertaining to them.

Last month, the newly released papers show, Walsh asked the panel to reconsider its decision that the government should reimburse Shultz for \$280,000 in legal fees incurred defending himself against Walsh's investigation. Calling the panel's position "demonstrably incorrect," Walsh argued that Shultz never had been investigated and cleared by the Justice Department for the activities Walsh looked into. One week after Walsh filed his motion, the judges turned Shultz down.

to oppose delaying tactics by Reagan and North was made public with other motions, repeated references to North were concealed.

When the Walsh report was first submitted under seal on Aug. 5, the three-judge panel made sections referring to individuals available for their review. Under the independent